National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Air quality and early-life mortality: Evidence from Indonesia's wildfires

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Abstract:

Smoke from massive wildfires blanketed Indonesia in late 1997. This paper examines the impact that this air pollution (particulate matter) had on fetal, infant, and child mortality. Exploiting the sharp timing and spatial patterns of the pollution and inferring deaths from "missing children" in the 2000 Indonesian Census, I find that the pollution led to 15,600 missing children in Indonesia (1.2 percent of the affected birth cohorts). Prenatal exposure to pollution drives the result. The effect size is much larger in poorer areas, suggesting that differential effects of pollution contribute to the socioeconomic gradient in health. © 2009 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement

Air Pollution: Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Wildfires

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Tropical

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Indonesia

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Developmental Effect, Morbidity/Mortality

Developmental Effect: Reproductive

Model/Methodology: ☑

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Outcome Change Prediction

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Short-Term (